

1859-60

5 Upper Gloucester Street

To be kept

Dorset Square.

24 Nov. 1859.

My dear Collier,

One last word. You ask me why you are to spare Dyce. I begged you not to mention him.

Three parties are to be considered in your reply:—Your friends, your opponents, and the readers of Shakespeare who in many far off places, as well as here, are waiting to know what is the truth.

Your friends know yourself and require no more.

Your opponents have made out a case which is deemed to be entitled to an answer.

The last are the persons whose

judgments are to be swayed. To convince them you should deal simply with the book, its story and its contents. If you involve them in any personal feuds, they will throw aside your answer unread. They will pronounce it, "Another Shakespeare squabble!", and hold that, as to the points which they deem essential, you allow judgment to go by default.

May God bless you, my dear friend, and guide you rightly. You know now, I fancy, all my opinions, and it will probably be better that

for the present, at any event, we
should not pursue this discussion.

Ever Believe me,

Yours most sincerely

Mr Bruce

J Payne Collier Esq^r

